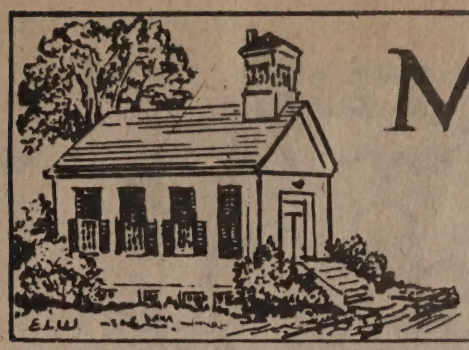

MONTEREY NEWS

DECEMBER 1988

TOWN NEWS

New Planning Board Member Appointed

Following the resignation of Art Hastedt from the Monterey Planning Board, the Board of Selectmen on November 21 appointed Bob Thieriot as interim member to serve until elections in the spring of 1989. The Selectmen spoke with pleasure of the four people who applied for the position and noted that such a number of residents willing to volunteer to serve on a Town board is unprecedented. They added that all candidates were not only distinguished by their willingness, but also they were all well qualified for the position.

Winter Skating Rink Shaping Up as a Reality

Park Commission members Dek Tillett, Tom Rosenthal and Fran Amidon met with Monterey Selectmen Monday, November 21, to confirm plans for a Town skating rink to be established in the new Fire Company pavilion. The rink, scheduled to be constructed by volunteer effort on the weekend after Thanksgiving, will be flooded when freezing temperatures dictate. Proposals for the nature of the rink so far include hours running after school until dinnertime, full-time supervision at all times, probably some weekend hours to be posted on Town bulletin boards and, somehow or other, some hot chocolate available. Plans for the future include skating music, instruction by local figure skaters and ice hockey buffs, and who knows what else.

Any Monterey resident who can offer either skating talent to share, or willingness to spend an hour or so supervising the scene, is urged to call Fran Amidon at 528-1233. Any new ideas are also welcome. Glide on, Monterey!

Cable TV Put on Pause

In a letter to the Monterey Board of Selectmen dated November 21, 1988, members of the Cable TV Advisory Committee described its research into the two companies who responded to solicitations for bids on a cable franchise in Monterey. The committee has also solicited bids from two companies presently operating locally in the Berkshires. The prospects in all cases were not good, local cable companies being reluctant to invest in a town the size of Monterey, and the other two bidders being judged by the committee to be too new and unproven to be reliable in terms of service and commitment.

The recommendation was to turn down all bids on the declared date of November 28 and, for the next six months, to keep in contact with neighboring towns to investigate possibilities for a regional committee which can present a larger number of customers to a bidding company. In addition to that, the committee can monitor the success of the various new cable companies in New England and evaluate possibilities for Monterey.

New Member Appointed to Roads and Machinery Committee

Following the resignation of Eileen Clawson from the Roads and Machinery Committee, the Board of Selectmen appointed David Smith to serve in her place.

One Phone Call for Police Emergencies

A new communications system has been established by the Monterey Police Department which will enable residents to get help for police emergencies with only one call. The instructions are: Call the old police number, **528-3211**. A Monterey

on-duty policeman will answer, if available. If no one answers after four rings, the Great Barrington 24-hour Dispatch Center will answer and contact the Monterey police through car radios or beepers. If no Monterey police are available, the Dispatch Center will automatically call the state police to respond to the emergency. If all else fails, the Great Barrington police will back up the other two agencies and respond to the call.

Police emergencies include such events as telephone or personal harassment, theft, breaking and entering, prowlers, trespassing, family feuds and the like. Residents are advised to be careful to distinguish between police emergencies and medical emergencies or fire calls. The Monterey Fire Company is eminently equipped to respond to fire and medical emergencies. In the event of an automobile accident in which people are obviously in need of extrication or medical treatment or fire prevention, call the fire and medical number, **528-1932**. The police department will automatically be called to evaluate the legal aspects of the accident.

If this description of the new calling system is not absolutely clear, we can look forward to a time fairly soon when a telephone sticker will be issued along with Monterey dump stickers which will differentiate between police and medical/fire emergencies and will clearly state each number to call.

Last of all, people who call the police to find out general information such as when dump hours are, or what to do with a stray dog should not call the police emergency number. Try the Town Secretary at 528-1443.

Phantom of the Lake

On two successive weekends this fall, someone has tampered with the drawdown mechanism at the dam on Lake Garfield, causing water levels to drop as low as 4½ feet. The Monterey Conservation Commission ruled on September 26 that the drawdown of the lake this year will be limited to that required for flood control. Drawdown was to begin at 9:00 on October 6 and end at 12:00 on October 15 or "whenever the drawdown level reaches 36 inches."

Highway crew members have rectified the unauthorized opening of the gates in each instance, but now the Selectmen have welded a crank to the drawdown mechanism and secured it with a chain and lock.

— Ellen K. Pearson

CHURCH NEWS

Advent has traditionally been a season of preparation, a time to get ready for Christmas. But not just the "gift-giving-Christmas-tree-decorating-Ho-Ho-Ho-holiday-cheer" kind of Christmas. Rather a Christmas filled with mystery, wonder and hope. A time to be amazed at how God breaks through into our world; how the "holy" permeates the ordinariness of everyday life; how we as God's children affirm a spiritual kinship with the Christ child born in Bethlehem.

Christmas always seems to bring out the child in me. It's a magical time of the year when all things are truly possible. Who knows what wondrously impossible things could happen this year? A homeless couple on a journey might find shelter, however temporary, in an old barn; shepherds, farmers and simple folk might catch a glimpse of a heavenly symphonic chorus; the child within each of us might be reborn with a profound sense of hope and possibility; perhaps the lion and lamb might even lie down together in peaceful harmony. Anything is possible.

As we prepare for Christmas, we at the church invite you to be part of our advent workshop series. On three Sunday afternoons (see dates and times below) we'll meet to light the advent wreath candles, share Christmas stories, design "Chrismons," make Christmas crafts, sing carols and bake Christmas cookies to share with shut-ins when we go Christmas caroling. All of God's children (ages 1 to 100) are welcome. Just bring a sandwich, your imagination and love. Also, join us for our Christmas candlelighting service on Friday evening, December 23.

Joy and Peace,

Cliff Aerie

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CHURCH CALENDAR

November 27	Sun	10:00am	Worship (Advent #1)
		4:00pm	Advent Workshop
December 4	Sun	10:00am	Worship (Advent #2)
		4:00pm	Advent Workshop
6	Tues	7:00am	Prayer Breakfast at A. Howell's
7	Wed	7:30pm	Musical "Jam" Session
11	Sun	10:00am	Worship (Advent #3)
		4:00pm	Advent Workshop
15	Thurs	7:30am	Friends of Silence at A. Howell's
18	Sun	10:00am	Worship (Advent #4)
		4:00pm	Community Christmas Program
21	Wed	6:30pm	Christmas Caroling
23	Fri	7:00pm	Christmas Candle Lighting
28	Wed	7:30pm	Musical "Jam" Session

THE DOVE IN THE STONE: FINDING THE SACRED IN THE COMMONPLACE

Alice O. Howell, The Theosophical Publishing House, Wheaton, Ill.; Madras; London: 1988.

"I suspect that rediscovering the sacred all about us, with the help of Sophia, is the spiritual task of this new eon. As Jung remarked, God is probably not all that interested in theology." (p. 131)

Indeed, it is not theology that we find in this remarkable book about the sacred, but the "synchronicities," the flashes of insight that come when we see, for example, that a stone is *also* the stuff of which the whole earth, including ourselves, is made. The dove in the stone is the sense of wonder, of love, that can grow from the realization of our unity with the stone, with all of creation. And Sophia is the goddess of wisdom, intuition, and laughter, the fairy godmother, who can touch our minds with her wand and release us from the cramped logic that insists that a stone is merely an inert, dense object.

The book is an exploration of the synchronicities in the mind of Alice as she visits Iona, a tiny island of enormous import in the Hebrides off the west coast of Scotland. Her "husband, friend, and teacher," Walter A. Andersen, explores with her the meaning of this burial ground of kings and the seat of St. Columba (Dove) who brought Christianity to Scotland. Alice finds that this Celtic kind of Christianity is sympathetic to the insights of mythologies and mystic revelations, worldwide. Iona, then, is magical ground for the universal truths that must bind all humankind together.

At a time when the world seems about to succumb to the worst instincts of the human race it is refreshing to hear Monterey's pilgrims to Iona welcoming a New Age in which kindness and love will be set free. We are taught to read the meanings in flowers, in our fellow passengers on a bus, in our kitchens, so that we can learn to see ourselves whole. At that moment, from small beginnings, our own personal New Age begins. And from *that* beginning can start the New Age for our fragile planet.

— David P. McAlester

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WHO'S WHO IN MONTEREY

Walter Parks, Postmaster

A recent *New York Times* poll found that more than 95% of their respondents considered postal employees in general to be unhelpful and often rude. Comics, like Johnny Carson, are full of post office jokes, and it is routine to complain about slow lines at the window. Happily, none of this applies in Monterey, where we are extremely fortunate to have Walter Parks as our postmaster.

Walter is probably the most helpful and patient resident in town. He always has a smile and something nice to say to everyone. The post office is a place where we like to linger, meet the friends and acquaintances who come along, and catch up on the latest news. And it is Walter Parks who sets this friendly tone.

Walter is originally from Duxbury, Massachusetts. He moved to Monterey with his parents in 1955. In 1962 he met Judy Smith in Great Barrington and they were married a month later after a whirlwind romance. They have four daughters: Beth, 25, and Susie, 23, are both married; Rebecca is 16 and Andrea is 5.

In 1959 Peter Phillips, the Monterey postmaster, hired Walter as a part-time clerk. At that time first-class postage was three cents. Soon thereafter Walter passed the civil service exam and became a full-time postal employee. He has held the title of postmaster since 1970. "I love my job," he says. "Each day is a little different; everybody's got a new story."

The post office processes about 3,500 pieces of mail every day. Sometimes what comes in is an adventure. "Like the time someone, I won't say who, got a shipment of honeybees. There was a small hole in the crate, and after a while the whole post office was buzzing. I kept calling the recipients to tell them their package had arrived, but by the time they got here to claim it, it was almost empty."

In his spare time Walter collects, you guessed it, U. S. stamps. He also is a skilled woodworker. And as for living in Monterey, he asks, innocently, "It's the *only* place to live, isn't it?"

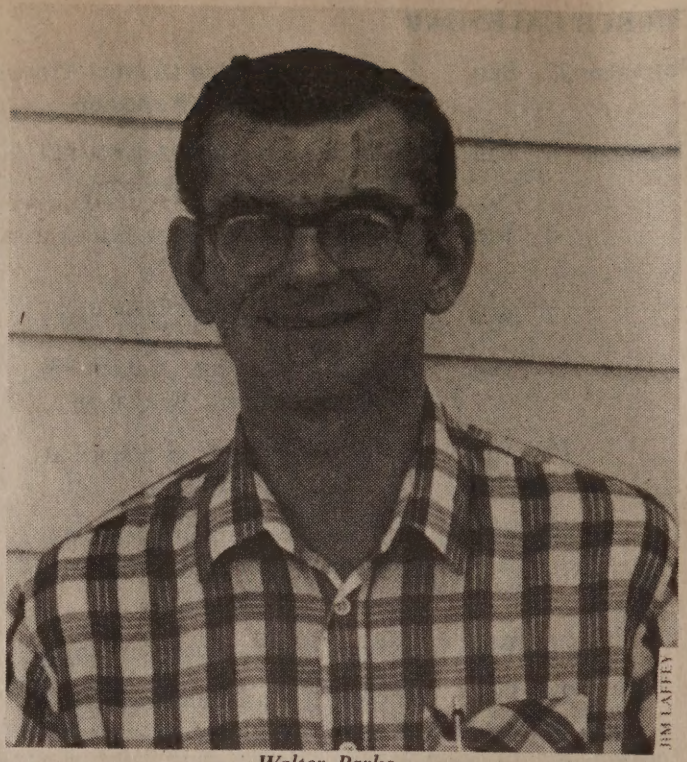
One other important duty I almost forgot to mention: Walter is responsible for making sure that all children's letters to Santa Claus at the North Pole get to him before Christmas. He's even been known to contact Santa and remind him to respond personally to every letter and enclose a candy cane.

Thanks, Walter, for making the Monterey post office such a friendly place; we're lucky to have you.

P. S.: Thanks must also go to Jerry Hamling, who has been Walter's part-time assistant since 1986. Jerry helps sort the morning mail, and his patience and helpfulness, too, are right in the Monterey style.

Coming up in "Who's Who": Arthur and Alice Somers of Rock Ridge; expert builder and carpenter Mark Amstead (who'll be pictured standing atop the new house he just built); and a special mystery personality. Any suggestions as to others you'd like to read about in this column, please give me a call at 528-5829.

— Jim Laffey



Walter Parks

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"GROWING SMART"

The Planning Board will host a presentation on growth management on December 8, 7:00-9:00 p.m., at the Town offices. "Growing Smart" is a thought-provoking media presentation, followed by a discussion which examines the options we face in determining the future of our landscape. It has been prepared by and will be given by the Center for Rural Massachusetts, U. Mass., Amherst. All interested citizens are welcome.

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PERSONAL NOTES

Hearty congratulations to **Shelby Loder**, recipient of the Superintendent's Award for Academic Excellence, and the annual Daughters of the American Revolution good citizen award. Shelby is president of the National Honor Society, editor-in-chief of the yearbook, a band member, secretary of her class, and a member of SADD and Peers Reaching Out Groups. She also participates on the cross-country team. Shelby is the daughter of **Cory** and **Nancy Loder** of Gould Farm. Good job, Shelby—Monterey is proud!

A little overdue applause for the Monterey Fire Company team that turned in such a superb first showing at their debut in the annual Josh Billings Runaground. **Michael Marcus** donned the running shoes, **Richard Sheridan** biked and biked, and **Brothers Makuc, Mark** and **John**, that is, did the canoeing. They placed a very respectable 210th out of 500 teams on their very first attempt. Just wait until next year—these guys have great potential. Best of all, they had lots of fun.

Welcome back to **Ben** and **Dolly Buck**, **Bill Swann**, **Dick Dunlap** and **David Walker Price**, who all enjoyed trips to England recently. Not all together, by the way.

Welcome back, also, to **Dick** and **Barbara Tryon** of New Marlboro Road, who had an exciting two weeks in Kenya. They visited Nairobi and made trips to four of the many game parks seeing the usual, and some unusual, African animals. They also identified 125 different species of birds, all in brilliant colors. Though they were on the equator, they were up five to eight thousand feet and perfectly comfortable. As they toured about they saw much of the everyday local African life, including Masai villages that seemed as though they must have been unchanged from 1,000 years ago. We look forward to seeing the Tryons' slides at some Community Supper, soon!

Best wishes to **Natasha Grotz**, who will be spending the winter months at Waterville Valley Academy in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. The tutorial program is coordinated with her home school, Mt. Everett, while enabling her to enjoy a great passion of hers, ski racing and training, seven days a week. So far Tasha is thriving on the whole experience, and loves the challenge of the academics as well as the six-mile morning runs. Good luck, Tasha!

Welcome to Monterey to **Riley Rafael Murkett**, born at Lambaré, Paraguay, near Asunción, on August 5 and added to the family of **Peter Murkett** and **Michèle Miller** on September 11, when they flew down to adopt him. They were there for two weeks as house guests of Clotilde and Coronel Ramón Rodriguez. They brought back fascinating memories of Paraguay and one of the most delightful of Monterey's youngest generation.

And Happy Birthday Wishes to **Brittany Piretti** on November 15 and to **Florence Brown**, **Jen Brown**, and **Gale Forbes**, all on November 25.

— Stephanie Grotz

LAND TRUST NEWS

The theme of this year's Small Farms Day, held on November 12 at Monument Mountain High School, was "Preserving the Berkshire Landscape." In the keynote address George Wislocki, Director of the Berkshire Natural Resources Council, spoke of "The Berkshires: A Sense of Place." Regional identity is the idea. We all need roots somewhere. The more able and adventurous may reach out to the ends of the earth; in literature, travel, work, enhancing world understanding; whatever they attempt will be all the better for the roots they have in their own region. Experiencing a sense of place, a feeling for your region is not provincial, but rather, it seems, a psychological necessity.

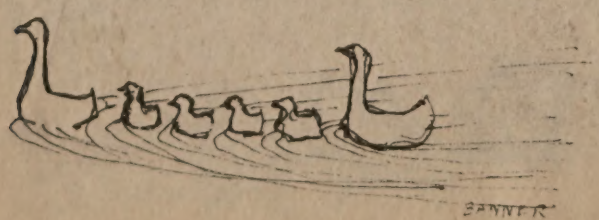
Suburban sprawl, unplanned growth, power and profit are all blights that confuse the distinction between urban areas and hinterland and tend to upset the balance of the villages, agricultural land and wilderness areas. Wislocki pointed out that it is perhaps only in our time, since approximately the turn of the century, that building has been so unplanned. He believes that land banks, tax reforms related to land, and town land trusts are all key elements in preserving the rural character of regions, each region unique in varied ways . . . therefore, sprawl is *not* inevitable if we take certain actions founded on sound ideas.

Rural planning was treated in greater detail by Randall Arendt, Director, and Katherine Preston, Staff Consultant and project coordinator for "Growing Smart," a slide presentation by The Center for Rural Mass., University of Mass. Mr. Arendt has a vital message: "PLANNING! DO IT!" His talk was followed by the slide show "Growing Smart." This excellent presentation gives practical steps for preserving rural town character by growth management, cluster zoning, site planning and integration of new development. THIS SAME SLIDE PRESENTATION WILL BE GIVEN ON DECEMBER 8, 7-9 PM AT THE TOWN OFFICES IN THE GRANGE, AND IS CO-SPONSORED BY THE MONTEREY PLANNING BOARD AND THE MONTEREY LAND TRUST.

Roger Tryon, Joyce Scheffey and Shel Fenn gave a workshop on the saving of Woodburn Farm under the APR program. Sheldon, as usual, was the star of the show. Those attending the workshop were mightily impressed by his obvious commitment to saving his farm. "Now, that's some fella . . . revives your faith in human nature, doesn't he?" was one comment overheard after the workshop.

The Monterey Land Trust (PO Box 504) continues its vital work. If you like what we're doing and haven't joined us to date, we hope you will ($5 individual, $15 family). We are at present 198 members strong. We welcome new membership, new ideas, new proposals and new support.

— Bob Rausch



A NEW LAND TRUST

Along with the many changes coming to the back country of the Berkshire Hills, a change is developing among land trusts scattered throughout the county. The largest trust, The Berkshire Natural Resources Council (BNRC), is looking to alter its roles as more town land trusts spring forth.

On November 12, in the evening at Brookmead Farm on New Marlborough Road, a meeting was held to announce the new plan and to spawn a land trust for Sheffield. For over ten years the BNRC carried the entire responsibility for private land stewardship in Berkshire County. With the establishment of the Monterey Land Trust, a new network began which has spread to Stockbridge, Williamstown and New Marlborough. A group of guests from Sheffield was invited by host Eric Roper to join land preservationists from Monterey and New Marlborough, along with BNRC director George Wislocki. Introducing his idea of a "mothership," George felt that his land trust should begin to take a step back and to be supportive of the town trusts with emergency funding, expertise on tax matters and consultants to help with state funding programs. In these ways the BNRC was helpful to Monterey with the preservation of Woodburn Farm this summer.

After George's talk, the folks from Sheffield got a sales pitch on how well the land trusts in both Monterey and New Marlborough have functioned. In each town those who appreciate agriculture, quiet woods, wildlife and rural lifestyle have been galvanized into a movement that gives landowners and towns an alternative to selling "at fair market value." Those who do not own large tracts of land have an opportunity to work on land preservation. The land trust movement was even helpful this summer in Sheffield preserving a 170-acre farm along the Housatonic, along with Woodburn's 200 acres, and 71 additional acres in Monterey in 1988.

Inspired by enthusiasm and tangible results, the group from Sheffield left, planning a meeting soon to incorporate a Sheffield-based land trust. The spread of the land trust movement can only enhance the preservation of what all people—speculator and farmer, builder and environmentalist, visitor and local—agree is what makes the hills of Western Massachusetts a special area: unbroken vistas; tree lines unbroken by house views; rows of corn growing in preserved farm fields.

— Bob Thieriot

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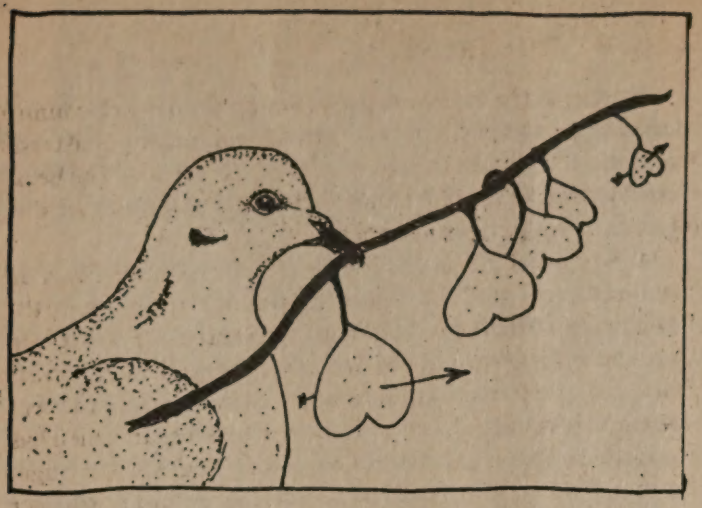

VOICE OF THE TURTLE(dove)

The dove pops up in songs and poetry whenever a little melancholy is needed, or love, or sweetness of the soulful variety. "If I had wings, like Noah's dove, I'd fly up the valley, to the one I love. Fare thee well, oh, honey, fare thee well." In this one I always figure that just walking up the valley is for some reason out of the question and the only way the sweethearts could get together would be if the one singing the song had wings. Obviously this is not the case, so it is some kind of doomed romance. Maybe Dad has built a fortress to prevent walking up or down the valley on the part of the sweethearts. In any case, we call on the dove once again.

The dove brought the olive branch to Noah and before long land and olive trees were discovered, and here we all are today. The dove and olive branch continue to bring us a message of peace, though in fact pigeons and doves are just as aggressive as any other kind of bird or creature. I think it is the dove's own call and her beauty which make her so poignant and famous in song and story.

Our local wild dove is the mourning dove. She is a pigeon, very like the extinct passenger pigeon, though considerably smaller. Her head is small and rounded, her eye round and innocent looking. She has, according to an ornithologist of the 1880s, "legs and feet lake red, and claws horn blue." Her tail is long and her overall aesthetic effect is smooth and curving. The bill, like that of all pigeons, has a horny tip, bent down, with a bulging membrane where the upper bill (mandible) meets the head. This is where the nostrils are. Pigeons, when they drink, submerge the whole bill right up to the nostrils and suck in water until they are satisfied.

All pigeons, doves, and mourning doves also bill and coo. Billing is a specific part of the pattern of courtship behavior which follows preening and precedes mating. It consists of the female putting her bill inside the male's and then both of them bobbing up and down together while holding onto each other's bills. Cooing happens any time, including during courtship, and can be a short version, "hoo-hoo-hoo," with the middle note raised, or a longer version, "hoo-hoo-hoo, hoo, hoo, hoo." Both songs are sorrowful sounding, to anyone given to musical anthropomorphism, and could certainly inspire the composition of love songs with unhappy endings, or even unsatisfactory beginnings. What makes the dove irresistible for this purpose, of course, is the inevitable rhyme with "love."

Perhaps the most famous poetic reference to the song of the dove is in the Bible in the Song of Solomon (2:11-12), in which the coming of spring is described: ". . . and the voice of the turtle is heard in the land." I used to wonder about the voice of the turtle, which when I have heard it is a kind of hiss that doesn't necessarily speak of spring to me. Now I understand, from the writing of Allan and Helen Cruickshank, scholars and ornithologists, that this turtle is actually the turtle dove.

Our mourning dove, also called turtle dove, is here by the feeder now and will probably be around all winter, landing on the roof of the feeder making graceful fan marks in the snow with her wings. She is large, up to 13 inches long, and has trouble getting right inside the feeder. Once installed, however, she may squat there for twenty minutes or more, daintily pecking up seeds, allowing a close examination of her subtle shades of gray and buff and pinkish, and inspiring some of the best (and worst) in songs and poetry.

— Bonner J. McAllester

SUSAN McALLESTER

BEARTOWN STATE FOREST

Excerpt from Heaven Lies About Us: A Love Affair with Swann Forest, *by Evalyn Stafford, who grew up in that section of Beartown Forest in the 1920s.*

In theory the Commonwealth of Massachusetts supplied its foresters with cars every two years; in practice, it was more like four. Reasonable quantities of gas, oil, and repairs went with the car. The house was rent-free for many years. These things were helpful in augmenting the salary the State paid its foresters. Yet modest as it was, we always seemed to have everything we ever wanted—wonderful toys, skis, sleds, fishing and camping equipment—everything. Mother and Dad must have done some miraculous planning.

I believe there were two Model Ts before we received our staunch A in 1928. Bill and I liked the Model T best when it stormed so that the sidecurtains were necessary. We could not see out and would lie back in our seat blissful over the "moving house" effect. But what a nuisance it was for Mother, having to put in new panes of isinglass, a frail material at best.

. . . This brings to mind also a Model T visit to Mr. Sargood's house in Lee. Bill Sargood was the district game warden and a good friend of ours. He came over quite often at one period, often bringing Mother a box of candy or a bag of oranges, and usually being invited for lunch. He would settle himself on the porch steps, Bill and I sitting worshipfully at his feet, and tell story after story of his experiences with an untrustworthy humanity. His accounts were full of expressions like,

"And then I told him a thing or two!"

"When I got through giving him a piece of my mind . . . ."

It seemed glorious how he laid down the law to these scoff-law folks. Mother and Dad sometimes laughed afterwards, and we heard the word "windbag" invoked, but it hardly dimmed the luster of our admiration. Didn't he carry a revolver hidden under his left arm?

Once in his perambulations, Mr. Sargood came upon a baby moose whose mother had been killed by a poacher. (The law protects the few remaining Massachusetts moose all the year round.) Mr. Sargood took the cold little fellow home in his coat and brought him up on a bottle. He named him for himself, and Bill, the moose, grew up tame and gentle. Even when he was turned loose on reaching the age of self-sufficiency, a big fellow with a handsome spread of horns, he often wandered into the town of Lee and electrified the townsfolks. He even got in the way of trains, but he was a local character and the engineers slowed down for him.

Finally some one of Mr. Sargood's old enemies, "some law-breaking louse," he said, shot the friendly animal, but was afraid to touch the corpse. His foster father found his body and sorrowfully had him stuffed. And Bill, the moose, was presented to the Pittsfield Museum.

This memoir, written in 1947 and currently being revised by the author, is being deposited in the Monterey Library section by section. Parts I-III have already arrived.

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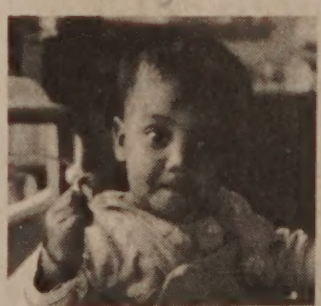
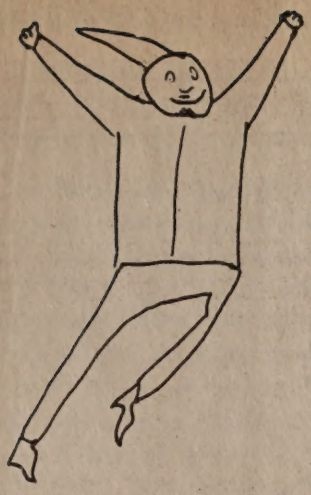
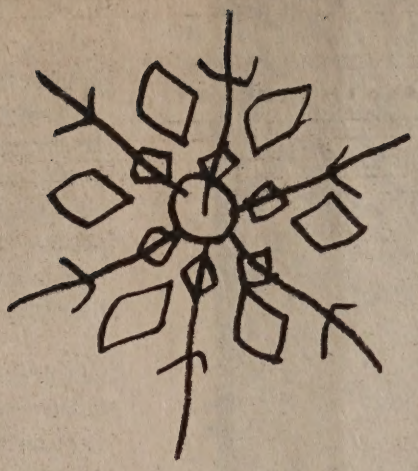






"A Merry Chirstmas To all!"

Eoin Higgins

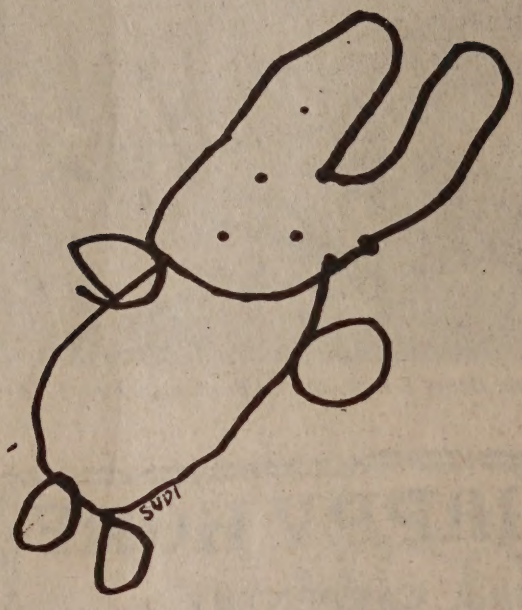
ACTING DEMOCRATIC

Dog in the truck
waiting supper.

Man sweating scruples
in the booth.

Ballot in the box
Outside, night,
no reply.

— Peter Murkett



THE DOVE

Peace came
and a bird, an ornament on the tree
flashed into sudden brilliance like a sign.
Then a crackling of the logs that fell apart
darkness again
Peace creeping into all the corners of the mind.
Old words, old notions
flickering in fragments
spark now to spark
Entered the place like fireflies of the wood
while the heart's embers grew a greyer tinge
reaching to find their buried shag-bark ends.

Thoughts try for ultimate conclusions
given their chance
Doing so watchfully
half-lights grown pale
As peace can smooth the wrinkles in care's gown
if care hug close the hearthstone stool for long.

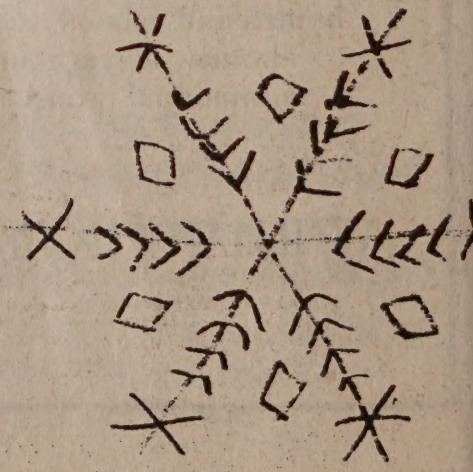
Peace came
and now, only the burned-out log
a tissue pinioned on an orange nest
The embers fall
their fragments crumble mute
leaving one flat white piece
shaped like a dove.

— Sue Moody

APPLES

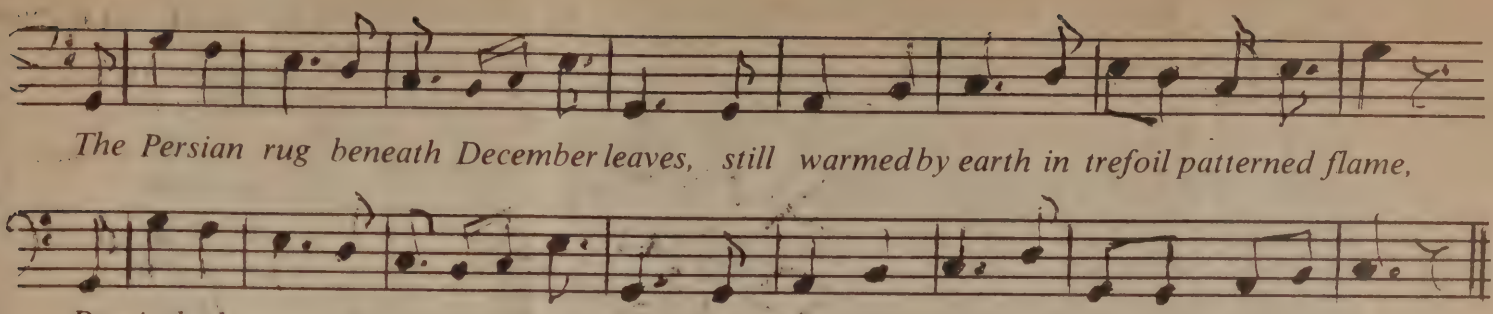
Our apples are still
on trees in our orchard.
Some fall to the ground.
When I walk home from school
I can choose one from hundreds.
I like the sound
of my teeth
in a brand new apple.

— Shaylan Burkhart



A Berkshire Carol

David P. McAllester



The Persian rug beneath December leaves, still warmed by earth in trefoil patterned flame,

Reminds the eye of vivid summer fruit when these grey hills will wake and move again.

The chipmunk sleeps, his nest is soft and warm
Beneath the earth, he knows not hunger's pain;
He'll flash through the woods as quick as any bird
When these grey hills will wake and move again.

The deer, like us, must fight the winter cold
And find their food, endure the freezing rain;
And they, like us, know well the need to hope
That these grey hills will wake and move again.

Santa Claus and Christmas Tree

CHRISTMAS ROAD

A road made for Christmas,
Trees spangled with white,
A house in the distance,
With candletips bright . . .
How soft falls the snow here,
A miracle, this,
The Snow Maiden's magic,
Her feathery kiss.
Now we see in the arms
Of a tree in the bend,
Where a bird house in snow
Makes a crêche overhead,
Our wee Infant Jesus,
All nestled in white,
The Saints walk at Christmas
And with them bring light:
Just look where the Christ Child
Hangs high in that tree,
Bidding Noël to someone . . .
Perhaps you and me.

— Sue Moody

ELEANOR HART

Monterey Center School about 1930
Eight grades in one room, one teacher, fifteen children

front row: Arnold Smith, Elery Heath, Jr., Bob Everett, Dick Tryon, Dan Everett
second row: Marion Davis, Flora Kimberley, Lois Thomson, Frederick Kimberley
third row: Nathan Smith, Ted Everett, Bruce Smith, Orville Heath
top row: Mrs. Emma Heath (teacher), Marion Thomson, John Harnett

SUSAN McALLESTER

Monterey School 1988
One grade (kindergarten), three teachers, 21 children

1. *Susan Andersen (teacher)*
2. *Laura Wagstaff*
3. *Maggie Clawson*
4. *Todd Bynack*
5. *Michael Shea*
6. *Zac Sigsworth*
7. *Dylan Moulton*
8. *Tess Pollock*
9. *Justina Jassen*
10. *JoAnne Futrell*
11. *James Hall*
12. *Stephanie Stucker*
13. *Stephanie Veseskis*
14. *Aaron Scapin*
15. *Katie Vallianos*
16. *David Reed*
17. *Andrew Shaw*
18. *Darcy Whitten*
19. *Kim Gero*
20. *Gordon Hamm*
21. *Deirdre Higgins*

Children from New Marlborough as well as from Monterey now attend the Monterey School.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

Nine short years ago when my husband and I married and moved to Monterey we were able to build our home, begin our family, and start our gardens on two adjacent building lots we had purchased for $16,000. Wages in the Berkshires were lower than what we were used to in New York City, but we were willing to trade higher income for the satisfactions of rural life. Gradually we have become part of the community. Our children attend the local schools. We attend a nearby church. We both serve the town in several capacities.

As the years have gone by, we have seen the door slam behind us. The skyrocketing market value of real estate has made it impossible for young people to buy in. What cost $16,000 in 1977 would cost at least $100,000 today—that would be for land with no home. Workman's wages in the Berkshires are $8.00-$22.00/hr. Teachers, for instance, start at $18,000/year. Figure it out. Where are the people who make Monterey the place it is going to live?

What has made Monterey so desirable for summer residents, aside from its natural beauty, is the friendliness, the outspoken free-spirited quality of its townspeople and the institutions we've established: this newspaper, our Fire Company, our Arts Council, our Land Trust. It's understandably refreshing for those in high-pressured city situations, where anonymity and suspicion are palpable ingredients of daily life, to plug into our pastoral democracy.

But the balance has shifted. 65% of the homes in Monterey are owned by people who live somewhere else. It is up to us, the citizens of Monterey, to do whatever we can to preserve our community and not stand by while our town is sold out from under us to the highest bidder.

Sincerely,

Leslie Scutellaro

To the Editor:

For the first time since 1958 I was unable to spend my usual six months at my Lake Garfield cottage because of family illness that kept us in Florida. When the October issue of the *Monterey News* arrived last week I was delighted because I missed Monterey so much. This was short-lived, however, when I read about the conditions proposed for the annual drawdown. It left me in a state of shock at the callous and arbitrary manner in which this important matter was handled by the Conservation Commission and the Selectmen. What happened to those proposed meetings which the Selectmen were going to call during the summer where the part-time residents (and full-time taxpayers) could provide input on matters of serious concern to them? Carlo Romairone's letter in the October issue is an eloquent statement of the callous and arbitrary attitude exemplified by those few who feel they have the power and wisdom to make condescending decisions superceding the experience and know-how of Lake Garfield Association members. Has everyone forgotten that LGA was formed at the behest of the Selectmen (when Dick Tryon was Chairman) and charged with responsibility to make recommendations concerning the lake? Maybe the action taken this year is a way of telling LGA to mind its own business.

In the light of the above with tongue in cheek, may I offer my newest recipe. It is called *Garfield Salad Bowl*. Begin by taking one stubborn and opinionated biologist and mix thoroughly with her cohorts on the Monterey Conservation Commission, then garnish with its Order of Conditions before blending with the complacent and unchallenging approval of the Selectmen. Allow the resulting mess to ripen for two years. It should supply sufficient garbage for the swimmers, fisherman and boaters to wallow in for the entire 1989 season. Bon Apetit!!

Should Lake Garfield residents and others who use the lake stand aside and let a few with freak ecological reasoning determine what is the correct amount of drawdown? I say, "a resounding No." Next year we must:

1. Insist the Selectmen assume a position of leadership concerning drawdown and not permit an Order of Conditions from the Conservation Commission to be the sole determinant.
2. Make sure the Conservation Commission considers material available from the Mass. Congress of Lakes and Ponds. It states "the only effective method of weed control short of chemical treatment is maximum drawdown."
3. The Lake Garfield Association should assume a more militant stance and depart from its cooperative position of past years.
4. The dam is designed to permit a drawdown of eight feet. Why not try the maximum? It certainly can do no worse than the result of last year.
5. Encourage the Selectmen to foster better cooperation and communication among boards, commissions and committees. Observations over the years indicate that each group jealously guards its own prerogatives instead of working together.
6. Start early next year to facilitate a decision on drawdown without waiting until seasonal residents have departed.

Sincerely,

George H. McVey

PORCUPINE?

He speaks no English. Maledictions such as
"bastard"
do not insult him.
Passively he regards this enraged interloper,
this naked larval creature
as it struts and frets
begrudging him the few prunings he takes
from an aspen *—a weed tree.*
Pity he doesn't understand murderous intent—
He'd leave the pear tree alone
Strange that the spoiler would kill
knowing that for a dollar's worth of wire
it can keep its lousy pears.

— David Balch

MONTEREY SCHOOL 1988

NOVEMBER

The last of the leaves—except those of the stubborn oak and beech—are gone from their boughs, fallen and raked in piles for compost or lying as they landed under a tree in the forest, incipient humus for the woodland soil. Now the branches speak of a new won freedom, for can you see their proclamation? Upward point those bare arms, graceful as the ash swings in the breeze, stout and powerful as those oaks hold their own in the gales of November. See the deer a long way off through the woods, their white rumps flashing against the drab background as they see or smell you and wild turkeys wander in processions announcing Thanksgiving.

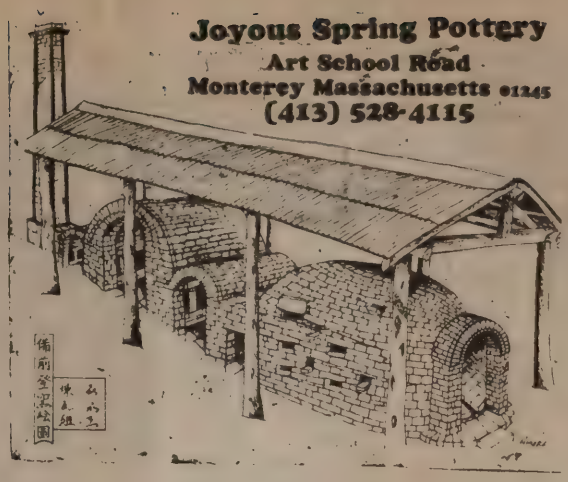
Stone walls we never knew existed now come out of nowhere, appearing to us in the leafless woods. Perchance we stumble upon an old foundation and follow the delineations of a past road seemingly to nowhere.

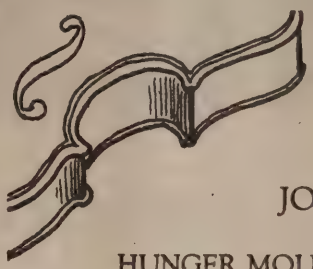
The first snows have come and gone, the warmth of Indian Summer returning with a hazy sun and smoky horizons. A slashing rainswept easterly gale removes the thin icy caps from the ponds and fills them to overflowing, making of rivulets streams even before the spring freshet.

The varied hues of October are past. Likewise the symphony of bird song is now the cawing of the crow and the sounding of the jay. Yet watching the flight of the solitary crow across a Konkapot swamp, I see even in the scavenger nature has added touches of nobility. So, caw on, derisive crow!

Today Isawour weekend neighbors from the city, all out in their meadow and in the brush, a cardboard box or two in front of each member of the family. A game? Some scavenger hunt? Could it be that in the rain and wind these city visitors to the country are close at hand studying Nature? Indeed they were, by gathering up branches and scraps of dead limbs for firewood. Thus I felt assured that these folks were really sane and like the grey squirrels now running along the limbs gathering nuts, they too were gathering part of nature at first hand to keep a warm hearth on a damp, cloudy day. It was encouraging to see so simple and earnest an activity—the smoke now blowing from their chimney—on a bleak Sunday morning in November. Even the church bells rang. . . .

— Robert Rausch

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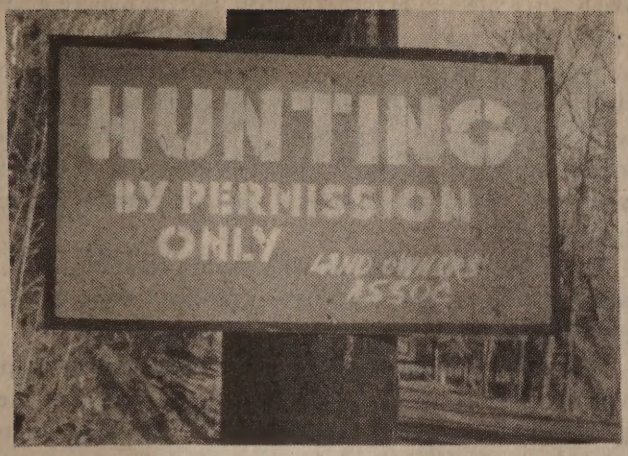

GRANGE NEWS

The Monterey Grange, No. 291, met November 2, 1988; the theme of the program was "Let's All Give Thanks." Worthy Lecturer Mary Wallace gave an interesting report on the Massachusetts State Grange Convention in Chicopee. The State Grange went on record as opposing No. 3 on the November ballot and voted NO on increasing automobile insurance. Six scholarships were awarded to area youth.

At the meeting on November 16, Robert Williams, as acting Master, conducted the meeting. Florence and Walter James, Louise Sweet, and Lois Carpenter were taken in as new members. Special Deputy Alicia Brazie and Subordinate Deputy Peter Martin were present and presented Awards of Achievement to the Worthy Master Tollie Butler, Lecturer Mary Wallace, and Secretary Edna Leavenworth. Also to Conservation Committee members Florence Brown and Eleanor Kimberley, a first prize was awarded for the exhibit at the Post Office. Eleanor Kimberley was also awarded many prizes for her photo exhibits.

Visitors were present from Heart of the Berkshires, Sheffield, Stockbridge, and West Stockbridge. A variety program was much enjoyed. The next meeting will be December 7, preparing for Christmas. Members are asked to bring in articles for the cheer boxes.

Fraternally,

Mary Wallace
Lecturer

J. OWEN

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MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED AT MT. EVERETT SCHOOL

Four years ago a School/Community Committee on Educational Excellence recommended a study of Sheffield Center School along with a long range plan to upgrade district facilities. This was based on projections of additional space needed and also on the deteriorating condition of Sheffield Center. Since that time there have been many changes. The School Committee employed Norman Day to study the facility in 1986; he recommended a new building and modernization at the Mt. Everett Campus rather than putting money into an old building which would be a limited improvement at best, and for which there would be no state reimbursement. The state Board of Education agreed but also suggested further study into greater regionalization of the district.

Some initial meetings with the Berkshire Hills Regional School District took place but no common ground could be found. Community support brought about a referendum to enter into a formal study with Berkshire Hills in 1987. Though the study suggested a merger, the two districts could not work it out and in November of 1987 broke off formal talks.

Meanwhile our district has had to face growing deficiencies in our buildings. The School Committee formed a School Building Committee to develop a long range facility project. A study was commissioned which in turn was submitted to the Department of Education Building Assistance Bureau.

In May of 1988 the School Building Committee employed Tessier Associates for architectural and engineering services. Four options were brought forth and in October the School Committee choose the fourth option. This plan calls for a modernization of the current Mt. Everett campus for K-6 and a new high school building adjacent to the existing building serving 7-12.

Each town of the district has established informational teams to inform the community of the needs and plans of the district. More specific information will be disseminated, revealing the difficulties in the Sheffield Center School and the pressing need for additional educational space for the lower grades as well as for the high school.

There are many problems and needs that the current buildings could not hope to manage. The most recent building is now 32 years old and neither it nor the Sheffield Center School (more than twice that age) are capable of dealing with the present, urgent needs. The informational team will help to provide information on the needs and plans.

The first communication will come from "On Common Ground," which will be coming out in the latter part of November. Be sure to read the background on the issues involved. A brochure is being published soon to present the figures and cost of this project.

An informational meeting of Monterey residents is scheduled for January 10 in the firehouse. At that meeting there will be presentations, a video of the current buildings and time to discuss issues related to the plans for our district. The five member towns will be voting on the bond issue for the new school/modernization project February 16, 1989.

There may be many who feel that this is too rushed a schedule to deal with such a major project, but the need has been there for some years. Many delays through merger studies and the like have created an urgent situation. But the planning has been careful and extensive. We cannot afford to throw away money to "patch things up" any more. It will not solve the problems, and none of that money will be reimbursed from the state. There is no real alternative that has not been considered. The new school would be reimbursed by the state at about 68%, which would cost the towns an amount not unreasonably higher than "patching."

The present outlying schools would remain intact. New Marlborough would continue as a grades 1-4 school. Kindergartens in each town would also be maintained.

The informational team is made up of the following people who would be more than glad to try to answer any immediate questions you may have; they and others will also attend the informational meeting on January 10, 1989:

Evelyn Vallianos, chairperson, 528-3474
Carol Sadlowski, parent, PTA, 528-4704
Peggy Small, teacher, 528-2446
Margy Ohman, member, School Building Committee, 528-1785
John Dinan, Jr., chairman, School Building Committee, 528-0611
Linda Thorpe, liaison to Monterey Fire Company, 528-2164
Cory Loder, School Committee Representative, 528-9285

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Due to limited Day Camper openings, early enrollment applications will be sent only to those whose names appear on our mail-list of preferred names. To receive the Half Moon early-enrollment notice in the spring of 1989 send name and age of camper to Camp Half Moon, c/o Mr. & Mrs. Edward Mann, Box 188, Great Barrington, MA 01230.
(413) 528-0940

POSITION AVAILABLE

Assistant to the Board of Assessors, 6-8 hours a week. For someone with good clerical and typing skills who enjoys meeting the taxpayer. Submit resumé and desired hourly rate to:

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CALENDAR

Wednesdays, December 7, 14, 21, etc. — Yoga class is available for men and women 55 years and over: at the Great Barrington Senior Center every Wednesday morning from 9:30 to 11:15. $3.00 per session.

Thursday, December 8 — "Growing Smart": a slide presentation on town planning by the Center for Rural Massachusetts, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, co-sponsored by the Monterey Planning Board and the Monterey Land Trust. From 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Town Offices in the Grange Hall.

Saturday, December 10 — Square and Contra Dance, New England Style, at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, Mass. 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. Beginners and children welcome. All dances taught by caller Joe Baker, music by Mountain Laurel. Refreshments served. Adults, $4; children, $1 to dance until intermission. Information: 413-528-9385 or 518-329-7578.

Sunday, December 11 — Boiler Room Café, Southfield, Mass., 6:00 p.m. David P. McAllester will give readings from his novel, *Kina Nakwi*, a utopian fantasy of a group of Algonquin Indians who found a way to use the best of both cultures from the European colonization to the present. Light fare, beverages. Come at 5:00 if you want to order dinner before the reading. Admission $3.00.

Wednesday, December 14 — Community Supper: Come to our dinner meeting and enjoy seeing Norma Reiner and members of the company of the Berkshire Public Theatre in *A Christmas Carol*. Have a taste of Dickens in a holiday treasure and join in some of the familiar carols of the season. Bring a Christmas potluck dish. 6:30 p.m. in the Church social room.

Saturday, December 24 — No Mountain Laurel Contra Dance.

Sunday, December 25 — Merry Christmas!

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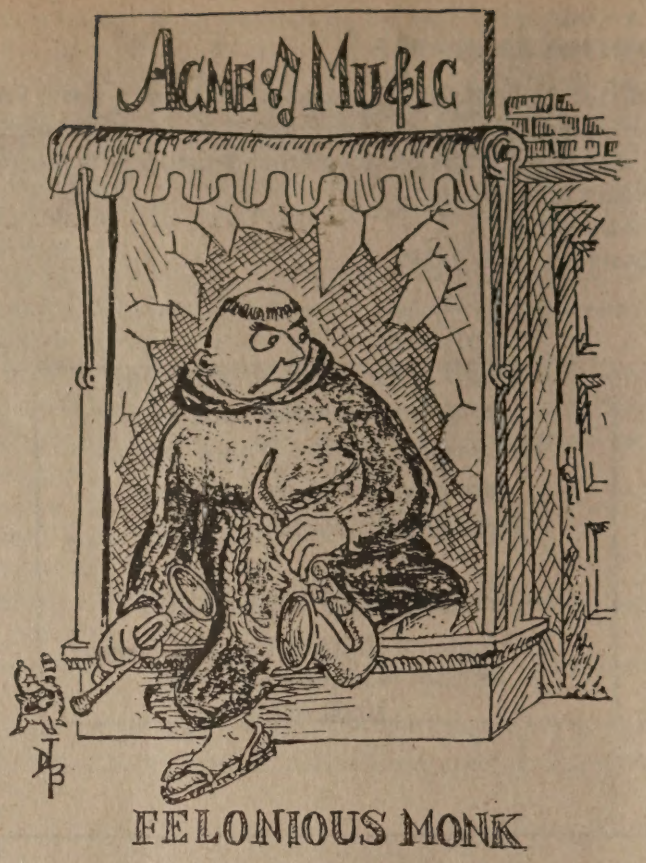

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

To report hunting violations
(in the order recommended by the authorities)

1-800-632-8075 Boston: will be relayed to nearest local officer

1-442-0512 Berkshire County Communications System: will relay to the local game warden

528-0306 Great Barrington police: Craig Scott, the warden there, knows the Monterey scene and could come if necessary

For ordinary trespassing, whatever the reason, you can call the Monterey police: **528-1932**.

AD RATES

One-inch classified ads (1″ x 3⅜″)	$ 2.50
Two-inch busines cards (2″ x 3⅜″)	5.00
Three-inch ad (3″ x 3⅜″)	7.50
Four-inch ad (4″ x 3⅜″)	10.00

Back cover ads are double the above prices. No classifieds on the back cover. Copy should reach the editor by the 20th of the month before publication. In general, we cannot run letters more than one column in length.

Editor	David P. McAllester
Business Manager	Barbara Gauthier
Art Editor	Bonner McAllester
Personal Notes Editor	Stephanie Grotz
Typesetters	Pat Amstead
	Eileen Clawson
Reporters	Ellen K. Pearson
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